

Name	Title	Date of Approval	Notes
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Date: 2022-02-09

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SUBJECT: Ottawa 'Freedom Convoy' Protests

CONTEXT:

Since January 28, 2022, protesters have occupied the Parliamentary Precinct and Ottawa's downtown core. Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has been working in close collaboration with the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Police, the Ville de Gatineau, the NCC and other government departments and agencies to provide support, as required, to help ensure the integrity of assets such as monuments and buildings.

To date, PSPC has installed protective barriers and fencing around several monuments, implemented lane closures as required on the Alexandria and Macdonald-Cartier Bridges, provided fencing and barriers as required in the downtown core, and provided the City of Ottawa additional parking outside the downtown core in order to alleviate congestion.

STATEMENT:

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is working with our partners within the federal government, the Parliamentary Protective Service, the National Capital Commission, Ville de Gatineau and the City of Ottawa to protect national monuments and our buildings, as well as to provide logistical support during the Freedom Convoy Protests in Ottawa.

The safety and security of workers on Parliament Hill remains a top priority for Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). PSPC and the Parliamentary Protective Service made the decision on January 28 to close the Centre Block construction site due to the ongoing protest taking place in Ottawa. The site remains closed and PSPC is monitoring the situation in close collaboration with the Parliamentary Protective Service, the House of Commons, the Senate of Canada, and the Library of Parliament, and will adjust our activities, as needed.

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As part of this work, PSPC has installed temporary fencing at the National War Memorial, the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument and the Monument to Canada Fallen (Korean War Monument) at Confederation Park, and numerous barriers at various points of entry.

Additionally, at the request of the City of Ottawa, PSPC has provided overflow parking as required in order to help alleviate congestion in the downtown core.

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Date:
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Out of an abundance of caution, PSPC has also extended lane closures on the Alexandra Bridge and Macdonald-Cartier Bridge over the upcoming days.

We continue to monitor the situation closely.

QUICK FACTS AND STATS:

National War Memorial:

- During the weekend of January 29-31, 2022, protesters were observed at the National War Memorial site and one protester was seen dancing on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An investigation led by Ottawa Police Service is underway on this specific incident.
- On February 4, 2022, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), at the request of the City of Ottawa, installed contiguous fencing around the National War Memorial (Cenotaph) and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- While the Government of Canada respects the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, we also have a duty to ensure that the National War Memorial is appropriately maintained and protected, as a deeply symbolic and important monument that recognizes the sacrifices of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have served Canada.

If pressed on policing at the War Memorial

- The National War Memorial is not part of the Parliamentary Precinct, nor is it an area that falls under the RCMP National Division's purview. As the police force of jurisdiction for the National War Memorial, the Ottawa Police Services (OPS) is responsible for enforcing all laws and regulations – including the Public Works Nuisances Regulations.
- Anyone who attempts to engage in camping or disrupting activities will be asked to vacate the premises and reported to the OPS without delay.

Other monuments in the downtown area

- On February 6, 2022, at the request of the National Capital Commission (NCC), PSPC also added fences around the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument and the Monument to Canadian Fallen (Korean War Monument) at Confederation Park.

Impacts to Bridges:

- The Alexandra Bridge currently has a 27-tonne load restriction applied to all types of vehicles. There is no load restriction on the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge.
- Out of an abundance of caution and safety due to the ongoing demonstration taking place in Ottawa, PSPC has extended lane closures on both the Alexandra Bridge and Macdonald-Cartier bridges over the upcoming days.

- The Alexandra Bridge will continue to be closed to vehicular traffic except from Monday, February 7, to Friday, February 11, from 6 to 10 am. During which time the Ottawa-bound lane will be open to vehicular traffic. The boardwalk will remain accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

Overflow Parking:

- At the request of the City of Ottawa, PSPC was asked to identify overflow parking outside the downtown core, starting Saturday, February 5, 2022.
- The overflow parking areas were established in order to alleviate congestion in the downtown core and is not intended to act as a supply depot.
- PSPC has provided access to the parking lots only at 1500 Bronson Avenue and Sir Charles Tupper (2670 Prom. Riverside Drive) as overflow parking for protestors.
- Both of these locations were identified as they are not located near residential areas and have limited impact on citizens, including federal employees.
- The NCR Command Centre and the Ottawa Police Service have been notified about the presence of protestors, vehicles, trailers and supplies at 1500 Bronson. As of February 9, 2022, there are no protestor vehicles at Sir Charles Tupper parking lot.
- PSPC does not communicate directly with protestors. Communications with the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Services are channelled through the NCR Command Centre.

If pressed on 1500 Bronson Avenue parking:

- Since February 7, PSPC, at the request of the City of Ottawa, has allowed protestors to park at 1500 Bronson Ave in an attempt to alleviate congestion in the downtown core.
- The two buildings located at 1500 Bronson Avenue are currently unoccupied and do not provide public access.
- The parking lot is separated from the buildings by security fencing and the property has 24/7 on-site security presence via the Corps of Commissionaires..

Sir Charles Tupper parking:

- There are currently 75 employees from PSPC and Health Canada working at this building.
- Access to the Sir Charles Tupper Building (from the parking lot) is via an underground tunnel and entrances that are being guarded by Commissionaires.

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- There is no public access to the building, both entrances are guarded by commissionaires and accessible using employee access cards only.
- The Corps of Commissionaires at this building have been monitoring the parking lot and 24/7 security camera surveillance is available.
- As of February 9, 2022, there are no protestor vehicles parked at this building.

SPOKESPERSON: *Media Relations Office – 819-420-5501*

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